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of *Fraxinus americana*. Though primarily intended for the pharmacist, these articles are of no little value to the botanist, and Dr. Kremers is to be congratulated on the promising outlook for his new journal. T.

Indiana Botany. — Several articles in the *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* for 1896, recently issued, are of interest to botanists; namely, "Notes on the Flora of Lake Cicott and Lake Maxinkuckee," by Robert Hessler; "Notes on Some Phanerogams New or Rare to the State," by W. S. Blatchley; "Periodicity of Root Pressure," by M. B. Thomas; "Notes on the Flora of the Lake Region of Northeastern Indiana," by W. W. Chipman; "Additions to the Published Lists of Indiana Cryptogams," by L. M. Underwood; "The Bacteriological Flora of the Air in Stables," by A. W. Bitting and C. E. Davis; "An Experimental Study on the Pathogenic Properties of Common Yeasts"; "Exceptional Growth of a Wild Rose," by Stanley Coulter; "A Revision of the Genus Plantago occurring within the United States," by Alida M. Cunningham, in which *P. minima* and *P. rubra* are described as new; "The Effect of Drought upon Certain Plants," by Clara A. Cunningham; "Additions to the Cryptogamic Flora of Indiana," by J. C. Arthur; "The Uredineæ of Tippecanoe County," by Lillian Snyder; and "The Occurrence of the Russian Thistle in Wabash County," by A. R. Ulrey. As might be expected, the papers are of very unequal value, and while those of local interest are useful, if somewhat fragmentary, the one monograph is scarcely likely to add materially to a knowledge of the group it deals with.

Sugar Cane. — The Bureau of Agriculture and Immigration of Louisiana has recently issued the first volume of a treatise on the history, botany, and agriculture of sugar cane and the chemistry and manufacture of its juices into sugar and other products, by Prof. W. C. Stubbs, Director of the Audubon Park Experiment Station at New Orleans. One chapter is devoted to the botanical relations of the plant, one to its anatomy and physiology, one to its modes of reproduction, and one to bacteriological notes on red cane. The remainder of the volume is historical and agricultural.

Digestion in Pitcher Plants. — It has been variously claimed that the digestion of proteides in the pitchers of Nepenthes is due to a digestive ferment secreted by them and to the action of bacteria growing in their secretion. Professor Vines, in the *Annals of Botany* for December, 1897, gives additional corroboration of the former claim, since he shows that the secretion digests fibrin in the presence of one per cent. hydrocyanic acid, and that its enzyme retains its digestive activity when kept for several weeks in pure glycerine. His studies do not reach to the secretion of the necessary acid, which, in one species at least, is present in the liquid of unopened pitchers, and therefore is not the result of stimulation by the presence of foreign bodies.

Primitive Angiosperms.—From a morphological study of Naias and Zannichellia,[1] Professor Campbell shows that both anthers and ovules are axial structures, approaching, as he believes, more closely to the sporangia of Pteridophytes than do those of any other angiosperm, and he seems inclined to look upon these genera as standing nearer to the diverging point of Isoetaceæ and monocotyledons than do most representatives of the latter group.

New Species of Pectis.—Mr. M. L. Fernald, of the Gray Herbarium, contributes to the knowledge of Mexican plants by publishing in vol. xxiii, no. 5, of the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* a paper on some rare and undescribed plants collected at Acapulco by Dr. Edward Palmer in 1894, and a systematic study of the genus Pectis, including species of the United States as well as Mexico. Of this genus, *P. Lessingii*, *P. prostrata*, var. *cylindrica*, and var. *urceolata*, *P. sinalœnsis*, *P. depressa*, *P. capillaris*, var. *paucicapitata*, *P. filipes*, var. *subnuda*, *P. Pringlei*, *P. Rosei*, *P. elongata*, var. *Schottii*, *P. ambigua*, and *P. linifolia*, var. *marginalis* are described as new.

Botanical Notes.—Botanists will be interested in knowing that the herbarium and notes of the late M. S. Bebb, a collection invaluable for any systematic study of North American willows, have been purchased by the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago.

An article on "The North American Genus Sarracenia," illustrated by a reproduction of a photograph of *S. Chelsoni* (*S. rubra* × *purpurea*), is to be found in *Gartenwelt*, of Berlin, of Dec. 26, 1897.

Students of European botany, who have found difficulty in resigning themselves to the use of one name for the terra-cotta-flowered and blue-flowered forms of the poor man's weather-glass, which they

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[1] D. H. Campbell, Contributions to Biology from the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory of the Leland Stanford Junior University. XI, A Morphological Study of Naias and Zannichellia. Reprinted from *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, 3d ser., Bot., vol. i. San Francisco, Cal., 1897. 61 pp., 5 pl.